The Idolatry of Affluence: A Critique of Contemporary Prophetism.

By Daniel Mizu.

The ostensible sanctuaries of faith have been transmogrified into lucrative enterprises, where the sacred tenets of spirituality are being supplanted by the idolatrous pursuit of material wealth. The prophetic voices of our time, ostensibly anointed to guide humanity toward the path of righteousness, have instead become purveyors of a gospel that worships at the altar of mammon.

The stark dichotomy between the prophetic tradition of old and the contemporary iterations is a jarring testament to the depths of our spiritual malaise. The likes of Moses, Elijah, and Amos, who dared to confront the powers that be and proclaim the unvarnished truth, have given way to a new breed of prophets who peddle a watered-down, feel-good gospel that caters to the basest instincts of their adherents.

The Jesus of the New Testament, who inveighed against the money changers and proclaimed a message of radical love and redemption, has

been supplanted by a Jesus who is more concerned with increasing one's bank balance and securing material prosperity. The gospel of repentance, forgiveness, and transformation has given way to a gospel of self-aggrandizement, where the pursuit of wealth and power is sanctified as a divine imperative.

The tactics employed by these modern-day charlatans are as varied as they are pernicious. They promise miracle wealth, sell prayers and anointing oils, and demand exorbitant "booking fees" for the privilege of their presence. The most vulnerable members of society, those who are desperate for a glimmer of hope in a world that seems determined to crush their spirits, are the primary targets of these predators.

As I ponder the sheer audacity of these false prophets, I am reminded of the words of the apostle Paul, who warned the Corinthian church against the dangers of a gospel that is beholden to the interests of the flesh. "For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil," he wrote, "and in their eagerness to be rich, some have wandered away from the faith" (1 Timothy 6:10).

And yet, despite the overwhelming evidence of their duplicity, these false prophets continue to thrive, their coffers swelling with the hard-earned cash of their devotees. It is a testament to the profound ignorance that pervades our society, an ignorance that is willfully perpetuated by those who seek to exploit the vulnerable for their own gain.

As the late Martin Luther King Jr. so eloquently put it, "Nothing in all the world is more dangerous than sincere ignorance and conscientious

stupidity." It is this toxic cocktail of ignorance and stupidity that has allowed the false prophets of our time to flourish, and it is only through the acquisition of knowledge and the cultivation of critical thinking that we can hope to counter their pernicious influence.

As I conclude, I am reminded of the wise words of Mahatma Gandhi, who said, "The world has enough for everyone's need, but not enough for everyone's greed." It is this insatiable greed, this idolatrous pursuit of wealth and power, that has corrupted the prophetic tradition and turned the pursuit of spirituality into a lucrative business venture.

Let us awaken from our slumber, dear friends, and recognise the false prophets for what they are. Let us reject their gospel of greed and materialism, and instead, embrace the radical message of love, forgiveness, and transformation that is at the heart of the Christian faith. For it is only through this message that we can hope to create a world that is just, equitable, and peaceful for all.